

What's New in the MPDC

OCTOBER 14, 2002

MPDC JOINS INVESTIGATION INTO DC METROPOLITAN AREA SHOOTINGS

Task force officials have announced a single, consolidated, nationwide hotline for accepting tips on the sniper shooting case: (888) 324-9800. In addition, the task force is taking tips via e-mail at taskforce@co.mo.md.us.

With the confirmation that an October 3 homicide on upper Georgia Avenue, NW, was linked with earlier sniper shootings in Montgomery County, the MPDC officially joined the task force that is investigating the shooting spree. Pascal Charlot, 72, of the 4400 block of 9th Street, NW, was shot in the chest at about 9:15 pm on October 3, as he stood on the corner of Georgia Avenue and Kalmia Road, NW. The victim was taken

to the hospital and pronounced dead at 9:56 pm. Analysis of ballistics evidence linked this homicide with the string of six sniper-style shootings that occurred on October 2-3 in Montgomery County. As a result, the MPDC has become part of the multi-agency task force, based in Montgomery County, that is investigating the sniper shootings, which have now occurred in Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland, Prince William and Spotsylvania counties in Virginia, as well as DC. In its role on the task force, the MPDC has assigned a team of detectives to assist in following up on the hundreds of leads that are pouring in on the case. For more information, including links to other agencies involved in the investigation and response, go to:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

In hopes of generating additional leads, Montgomery County Police have released photos of the types of assault and hunting rifles that are of the same .223 caliber used in the DC-area shootings. View the photos at: www.co.mo.md.us/services/police/media/pressrelease/rifle/1assault.html

MPDC STEPS UP PATROLS, TAKE OTHER STEPS IN RESPONSE TO DC-AREA SHOOTINGS

In addition to joining the multi-agency task force, the MPDC has taken a series of other steps to help keep DC safe in the wake of the metropolitan-area sniper shootings. The Department has increased uniformed police patrols, especially in and around public and private schools. Chief Ramsey has declared an emergency and suspended the contract with the Fraternal Order of Police. This step has enabled the Chief to hold over both the midnight and day shifts, so that additional officers can be available to assist with getting students into and out of school safely. School resource officers have also been working with local school administrators to discuss security issues and plans and to provide enhanced security. In addition to stepped-up school patrols, the MPDC has put its Emergency Response Team on alert so that it can respond quickly to any situation, and helicopter and harbor patrols have been stepped up. Finally, the Department has activated its Joint Operations Command Center, including the limited Closed Circuit TV system, to help coordinate information and the MPDC response.

Because one of the homicides occurred in DC, the MPDC is contributing \$10,000 to the reward fund established for information leading to an arrest and conviction in this case. The total reward fund now exceeds \$350,000. Individuals can contribute to the fund by calling 240-777-2500.

OTHER DC AGENCIES OFFER ASSISTANCE IN THE WAKE OF THE SHOOTINGS

School and mental health professionals in DC responded swiftly to the recent random shootings that occurred in the metropolitan Washington region. Mental health professionals at the DC Department of Mental Health's Access HelpLine – (888) 7WE-HELP – are available to talk with children and adults

about their concerns stemming from the recent shootings. The Access HelpLine is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More than 100 languages are spoken through a translation service. People may call the Access HelpLine to get help with problem solving, share their concerns, and determine if they want to seek mental health services or other types of services. Read more about the services being provide by the DC Department of Mental Health at:

Like other school districts in the area, the DC Public Schools instituted Code Blue, meaning that outdoor activities during and after school have been canceled. The

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

MPDC INSTITUTES NEW USE-OF-FORCE POLICIES

As part of its Memorandum of Agreement with the US Department of Justice, the MPDC has developed and issued to its members seven new or revised general orders and two circulars outlining new use-of-force policies and procedures. The newly instituted directives cover not only general use-of-force policies, procedures and investigations, but also such specific topics as canine teams, OC spray, handling of service weapons and carrying weapons aboard aircraft. The revised policies are part of the requirements of the landmark MOA that DC signed with the Justice Department in June 2001. The MOA outlines nearly 200 specific steps the MPDC must take to improve its performance in the area of use of force, citizen complaints and related areas. Read the MPDC latest progress report on MOA implementation at:

mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/FIT_progress_1002.pdf

NEWS & NOTES

- MPDC Inspector Josh Ederheimer was presented with the 2002 Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Award for Distinguished DC Government Employees during a ceremony October 9 at the World Bank's Preston Auditorium. As commanding officer of the MPDC's Civil Rights and Force Investigation Division, Inspector Ederheimer helped to develop and implement a sweeping series of reforms in use-of-force policies and procedures within the MPDC. Read more at: mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
MPDC.DC.GOV